CRYPTOCOCCOSIS—Torulosis or European Blastomycosis—M. L. Littman, M.D., Ph.D., Department of Microbiology, The Mount Sinai Hospital; and Lorenz E. Zimmerman, M.D., Central Laboratory, V. A. Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, D. C. Grune & Stratton, New York, 1956. 205 pages, $8.50.

Cryptococcosis or torulosis is an exceedingly uncommon human disorder. The reviewer has encountered only three cases in nearly twenty years of special interest in infectious disease. The authors present evidence that the disease is being recognized more frequently but even at Duke University, where interest is great, only 45 cases have been recognized in 24 years. Cryptococcus is the most common cause of mycotic meningitis in man and most of the cases reported are of this form of the disease. Many other organ systems may be involved, particularly the lungs, bones and joints, so that infection with this fungus must be considered in a wide variety of clinical situations.

This is a welcome addition to the library of specialists interested in the field of infection. It is obviously a labor of love and has been exquisitely prepared. Truly magnificent color plates illustrate the histology and mycology of the disease and there are many black and white illustrations.

The authors are microbiologists and pathologists; this has doubtless influenced their selection of material. Only 53 of 183 pages are devoted to the clinical aspects of cryptococcosis—the remainder consider the disease in animals, its immunology and pathology, and the laboratory study of the infected tissues and the organism.

This book will not be of great interest to the practicing physician but should be available in hospital and teaching libraries.

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THE BILIARY TRACT—With Special Reference to the Common Bile Duct—Julian A. Sterling, A.B., M.D., M.Med. Sc., Sc.D., F.A.C.S., Staff Surgeon, Albert Einstein Medical Center and the Graduate Hospital, Associate in Surgery, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1955. 424 pages, $10.00.

This monograph attempts to cover the biliary tract completely—from the anatomy, physiology and pathology to the clinical manifestations and the therapy of diseases of the pancreas, the gallbladder and particularly the bile ducts. A good deal of attention is devoted to the termination of the common bile duct at the papilla.

The structural and physiological facts are very well presented. Each chapter is written so that it may be read, for the most part, without reference to the other chapters. This has advantages for the reader who does not care to look into more than one section of the book, although it involves a certain amount of repetition for the reader who does. The succinctly positive style of the writing brooks no questioning by the reader. The questions are answered and the answers admit of no counter-opinion. When such writing is done in the case of syndromes as difficult to solve as postoperative dyskinesia one may ask—if it's all so patent why don't the patients respond more uniformly?

The discussions on therapy are largely surgical. The whole of Medical Management is covered in a chapter of 11 pages, 2½ of which are occupied by diet lists. And most of the rest is composed of preoperative care or management when complicating disease is present. Under these circumstances the author concedes, "The assistance here of a qualified internist and proper specialists may be necessary."

In general, however, the reviewer believes that this book is well done and fills the niche it tries to fit in—a monograph of biliary tract diseases which can be used by gastroenterologists, surgeons, general practitioners, and investigators.

TEXTBOOK OF MEDICAL PHYSIOLOGY—Arthur C. Guyton, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, University of Mississippi School of Medicine, W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1956. 1030 pages, 577 figures, $13.50.

For years there have been three to four standard textbooks of medical physiology which have been revised every few years but which have retained in large measure the original format and emphasis. Advances in medical physiology have been in the direction of better quantitation of physiological data, application of physiological concepts to clinical problems, and in biophysical processes. It was with some interest, therefore, that the new book by Arthur Guyton appeared, for he is a recognized teacher, biophysicist, and physiologist.

The book is good and has several advantages over previous texts. The single authorship does much to unify the entire contents of the book and provide equal emphasis on all aspects of physiology. The discussions are clear and brief, the entire book being only 1,030 pages, yet sufficient information is given that coverage of topics is not meager. However, the relationship of physiology to clinical medicine is not particularly striking, and the dynamic aspects of physiology, so important to the clinician, are not strikingly developed.

This is a good introductory textbook of physiology, and will serve the purposes of medical students well. It cannot serve as a dynamic book of clinical physiology for the continued use and reference of the practicing clinician. It is a textbook for medical students.

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LECTURES ON THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF MEDICINE—Volume IV, 1954-56—British Postgraduate Medical Federation, University of London. The Athlone Press, 1956. Distributed in the U. S. A. by John de Graff, Inc., 31 East 10th Street, New York 3, N. Y. 397 pages, $6.50.

The present and fourth volume of Lectures selected from those given "for young research workers, and future consultants and specialists" contains as before a miscellany of interesting topics. The lecturers are all experts in their fields and write with authority. Some of the topics are of seeming general interest to doctors such as C. H. Andrewes' article "The new look in virus research" whereas others are decidedly for the specialist as for example F. Beyel's lecture on "Some clinical aspects of abnormal growth" and J. D. Judah's "Reaction of enzymes to injury." The volume as usual is handsomely printed and illustrated.

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VENOUS RETURN—Gerhard A. Brecher, M.D., Ph.D., Julius F. Stone, Professor of Physiology, Department of Physiology, College of Medicine, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. Grune and Stratton, New York, 1956. 148 pages, $6.75.

Surgeons, anesthesiologists, internists and physiologists with an interest in the heart and venous system should welcome the appearance of this unpretentious volume by an author who has made important technical contributions to the measurement of blood flow. Following brief but adequate summaries of the earlier work of others, there are described the bristle flowmeter and the results of careful studies conducted by its means. Venous hemodynamics, the collapse of veins, the effects of normal and artificial respiration, the aspirating effects of ventricular systole on blood in the collapse chamber of the central veins and similar topics are discussed. Reasons are given for consideration of the heart as a reciprocating (pressure-suction) pump, and evidence presented for a ventricular diastolic sucking force. The monograph closes after attention to the effects of valve lesions and venous return during cardiac surgery. The bibliography and index are ample, the illustrations excellent.